



GAU 3652
PATENT

Case Docket No. TACOBEL.010A

Date: May 31, 2000

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In re application of : Rick C. Winfree et al.
App. No. : 09/026,824
Filed : February 20, 1998
For : RESTAURANT FOOD
PREPARATION LINE
Examiner : F. J. Bartuska
Art Unit : 3652

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

May 31, 2000

(Date)

Robert J. Roby, Reg. No. 44,304

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS AS FILED

	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total Claims	32	MINUS	50	= 0 ×	\$18	= \$
Independent Claims	5	MINUS	4	= 1 ×	\$78	= \$78
Time Extension Fee						\$
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$ 78

Enclosed are:

- (X) Return prepaid postcard.
- (X) A check in the amount of \$78.
- (X) Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Robert J. Roby
Registration No. 44,304
Attorney of Record

TACOBEL.0107



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Rick C. Winfree et al.

) Group Art Unit 3652

Appl. No. : 09/026,824

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed September 20, 1999, Applicants have filed a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) and respectfully submit the following amendments and comments in connection with the above-captioned application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 13-15, 19-21, 27-30, 48, 49, 52, 53 and 54 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 10, 17, 22, 25 and 44 as follows:

1. **(Twice Amended)** A food preparation line comprising a first section, a second section lying generally normal to the first section, and a third section positioned next to and extending away from the second section at an angle and in the same general direction as the first section, a first inside corner being defined at a juncture between the first section and the second section, a second inside corner being defined at a juncture between the second section and the third section, a heated storage compartment positioned on the first section [on one of the sections], a cooled storage compartment positioned on the second section, a heating device being positioned on the first inside corner [another one of the sections] and a generally open package storage